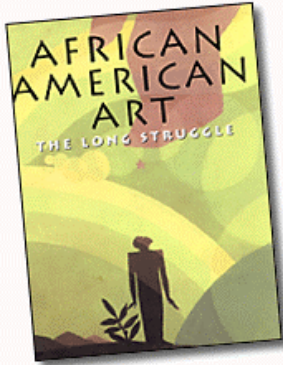




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Celebrating

African-American History Month



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FOCUS – February 2006

This issue of Focus highlights current issues with focus on celebrating African-American History Month.

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February 2006

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I. U.S. POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

0634

Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq. By Paul R. Pillar.
Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006.
<http://www.foreignaffairs.org/>

During the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, writes the intelligence community's former senior analyst for the Middle East, the Bush administration disregarded the community's expertise, politicized the intelligence process, and selected unrepresentative raw intelligence to make its public case.

0635

Iran: U.S. Concerns and Policy Responses. By Kenneth Katzman.
CRS Report, January 20, 2006
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61482.pdf>

The Bush Administration has pursued several avenues to attempt to contain or end the potential threat posed by Iran, at times pursuing limited engagement directly or through allies, and at other times leaning toward pursuing efforts to change Iran's regime. Over the past two years, the Administration has focused primarily on blunting Iran's nuclear program by backing diplomatic efforts by European nations and Russia to negotiate permanent curbs on it. International concerns on nuclear issues and other strategic issues have been heightened by the accession of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a hardliner, as president. The writer gives details.

0636

Middle East Update. By U.S. Assistant Secretary of State C. David Welch. Foreign Press Center, Washington DC, February 9, 2006.

<http://fpc.state.gov/fpc/60802.htm>

2005 and the beginning of 2006 has been a very eventful period of time which has seen growth and democracy and freedom continue in the area. There have been three elections in Iraq, two in Egypt, one in Lebanon, one in the Palestinian territories, and we expect of course an election in Israel. This is a sign of change that is growing throughout the area.

0637

Quartet Statement on the Situation in the Middle East. By Sean McCormack. U.S. Department of State, January 30, 2006

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/60068.htm>

The Quartet congratulated the Palestinian people on an electoral process that was free, fair and secure. The Quartet believes that the Palestinian people have the right to expect that a new government will address their aspirations for peace and statehood, and it welcomed President Abbas' affirmation that the Palestinian Authority is committed to the Roadmap, previous agreements and obligations between the parties, and a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

0638

Rebuilding Iraq: Stabilization, Reconstruction, and Financing Challenges. By Joseph A. Christoff. Government Accountability Office (GAO), February 8, 2006

<http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-06-428T>

The United States, along with coalition partners and various international organizations, has undertaken a challenging and costly effort to stabilize and rebuild Iraq following multiple wars and decades of neglect by the former regime. This enormous effort is taking place in an unstable security environment, concurrent with Iraqi efforts to transition to its first permanent government. The United States' goal is to help the Iraqi government develop a democratic, stable, and prosperous country, at peace with itself and its neighbors, a partner in the war against terrorism, enjoying the benefits of a free society and a market economy. In this testimony, GAO discusses the challenges (1) that the United States faces in its rebuilding and stabilization efforts and (2) that the Iraqi government faces in financing future requirements.

0639

State of the Union Address by the President.

United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., January 31 2006

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/stateoftheunion/2006/print/index.html>

President George W. Bush delivered his State of the Union Address at the Capitol, January 31, 2006. Bush said that in the “decisive year” of 2006, the United States must choose to exercise leadership in the world in order to secure peace and protect its citizens.

President Bush urged the United States to engage the international community as a means of building prosperity, security, freedom and hope around the world in his State of the Union address to the U.S. Congress and the American people. President warns that isolationism and protectionism lead to "danger and decline".

0640

Statement on Palestinian Elections. Secretary Rice remarks to the World Economic Forum, Davos, January 26, 2006

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/59870.htm>

The Palestinian people have apparently voted for change, but we believe that their aspirations for peace and a peaceful life remain unchanged. Those aspirations can only be met through a two-state solution, which requires a renunciation of violence and turning away from terrorism and accepting the right of Israel to exist and the disarmament of militias. As we have said, you cannot have one foot in politics and the other in terror. Our position on Hamas has therefore not changed.

0641

Terrorism and National Security: Issues and Trends.

By Raphael Perl. CRS Issue Brief, February 2, 2006

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61519.pdf>

International terrorism has long been recognized as a serious foreign and domestic security threat. This issue brief examines international terrorist actions and threats and the U.S. policy response.

0642

U.S. Aid to the Palestinians. By Jeremy M. Sharp.

CRS report, February 2, 2006

http://openers.cdt.org/rpts/RS22370_20060202.pdf

With the recent success of Hamas at the polls, many observers have cautioned that continued foreign assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) may be at risk due to Hamas' commitment to the destruction of the state of Israel and its designation as a terrorist group by the United States.

0643

Willing to Compromise: Palestinian Public Opinion and the Peace Process. By Khalil Shikaki. United States Institute of Peace, January 2006

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr158.html>

Palestinian public opinion is not an impediment to progress in the peace process; to the contrary, over time the Palestinian public has become more moderate. Palestinian willingness to compromise is greater than it has been at any time since the start of the peace process. This increased willingness to compromise provides policymakers with greater room to maneuver.

II. DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW

0644

A Danish Trojan Horse: Law and the Muhammad Cartoons.

By Bernard Freamon. Jurist Legal News & Research.

February, 22, 2006

<http://jurist.law.pitt.edu/forumy/2006/02/danish-trojan-horse-law-and-muhammad.php>

JURIST Guest Columnist [Bernard Freamon](#) of Seton Hall University Law School says that Danish prosecutors should revisit their decision not to charge the Danish newspaper editors responsible for the initial printing of the satirical Muhammad cartoons before the worldwide violence over their publication and republication gets even more out of hand. It is my duty as a Muslim African-American law professor to offer a brief comment on the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten's publication of cartoons satirizing the Prophet Muhammad and the subsequent republication of those cartoons by other newspapers around the world.

0645

Islam and Power: Is President Bush's plan to spread democracy turning into a fiasco? It doesn't have to. But it does need to change. By Fareed Zakaria. Newsweek, February 13, 2006
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11182278/site/newsweek/>

There are those who argue that the collapse of the Arab-Israeli peace process, the war on terror, and the bloodshed in Afghanistan and Iraq have all contributed to the idea that Islam is under siege--providing radicals with fresh ammunition. This is not, however, a wholly convincing case. For one thing, opposition to the Iraq war is not a radical phenomenon in the Middle East, but rather an utterly mainstream one. Almost every government opposed it. The writer explains, giving details

- 7 -

0646

The Promise of Liberty: The ballot is not infallible, but it has broken the Arab pact with tyranny. By Fouad Ajami. Opinion Journal, February 7, 2006
<http://www.opinionjournal.com/editorial/feature.html?id=110007932>

So, some now say, a people led for more than three decades by Yasser Arafat, a man who dodged all moral and political responsibility, have flunked a great democratic test. It wasn't a pretty choice that the Palestinians were presented with: the secular autocracy of plunder and pretense represented by Arafat's inheritors on the one side and the cruel utopia of the Hamas hard-liners on the other. This was where Palestinian history led. Ever since the Palestinians had taken to the road after 1948, that population had never been given the gift of political truth. Zionism had built a whole, new world west of the Jordan River, but Palestinian nationalism had insisted that all this could be undone.

III. U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES

Celebrating African-American History Month

0647

Celebrating Black History Month 2006. County of Los Angeles
Public Library, February 2006
http://www.colapublib.org/bhm/black_history.html

Black History Month is an annual observance in February, celebrating the past and present achievements of African Americans. In February 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, proposed the establishment of "Negro History Week" to honor the history and contributions of African Americans to American life. Dr. Woodson, known as the "Father of Black History", chose the second week of February because it commemorates the birthdays of two men who greatly affected the African American community: Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and Frederick Douglass (February 14). Negro History Week became Black History Week in the early 1970's. In 1976, the week-long observance was expanded to a month in honor of the nation's bicentennial.

0648

President Bush Declares African American History Month.

USINFO, Department of State, January 2006

<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2006&m=January&x=20060127184845jmnamdeirf0.1233942&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>

Says accomplishments encourage Americans to pursue their vision and dreams Citing African-American achievers whose "accomplishments... encourage people to reach as far as their vision and dreams may take them," President Bush proclaimed February as African American History Month.

0649

A Very Living Past. By Christine Gibson. American Legacy, Summer 2005

http://www.americanlegacymag.com/thisissue_summer2005.html

Over the past several years, photographer Sarah Hoskins has been documenting African-American hamlets in the counties around Lexington, Kentucky, known as the Inner Bluegrass Region. Founded by newly-freed slaves after the Civil War, several dozen communities are believed to have once existed in this area; 29 of them remain, and many are threatened by suburban expansion around Lexington. Hoskins, who has taken about 11,000 pictures, notes that these villages had never before been the subject of a photographic survey, saying that "African-American history has been so neglected in this country ... and has been literally bulldozed over."

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**0650**

**Tribal Relations: How Americans Really Sort Out on Cultural and Religious Issues and what it means for Our Politics.**

By Steven Waldman and John C. Green. Atlantic Monthly, vol. 297, no.1, January/February 2006

<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/prem/200601/tribal-relations>

In analyzing the impact of religion and values on American politics, the authors move away from the simplistic "right versus left" stereotype, and categorize the U.S. public into what they call "the twelve tribes". The author discusses each tribe, mentioning statistical data and giving information.

**0651**

**Video Games and the Future of Learning.** By David Williamson.

Phi Delta Kappan, October 2005

[http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k\\_v87/k0510toc.htm](http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k_v87/k0510toc.htm)

Video games are commonly looked upon as "merely entertainment," within the academic community, but corporations, the government, and the military have already recognized their value as educational tools, and schools need to catch up, say the authors, who are faculty members at the University of Wisconsin, and founding members of the Games and Professional Practice Simulations Research Group. The authors contend that video games are an important learning tool because they let people participate in virtual communities -- where learners can understand complex concepts without losing the connection between abstract ideas and the real problems they can be used to solve.

#### **IV. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND TRADE**

**0652**

**The Budget of the United States Government Fiscal, Year 2007.**

The Office of Management and Budget, February 2006

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2007/>

Contains the Budget message of the President, information on the President's budget and management priorities, and budget overviews organized by Agency.

**0653**

**Economic Report of the President.** United States Government Printing Office, February 2006

[http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/13feb20061330/www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/2006/2006\\_erp.pdf](http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/13feb20061330/www.gpoaccess.gov/eop/2006/2006_erp.pdf)

The United States economy continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience, flexibility, and growth. Having previously endured a stock market collapse, recession, terrorist attacks, and corporate scandals, this year the economy showed strong growth and robust job creation in the face of higher energy prices and devastating natural disasters. This is the result of the hard work of America's workers, supported by pro-growth tax policies. In 2005, the Nation's real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 3.5 percent for the year, above the historical average. About 2 million payroll jobs were added in 2005, and the unemployment rate dropped to 4.7 percent last month, well below the averages of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

0654

**Global Corruption Report 2006.** Transparency International, special focus on impact of corruption on health care quality and availability worldwide, January 2006

<http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/>

Every year, the world spends more than US \$3 trillion on health services, most of which is financed by taxpayers. These large flows of funds are an attractive target for abuse. The stakes are high and the resources precious: money lost to corruption could be used to buy medicines, equip hospitals or hire badly needed medical staff. The diversity of health systems worldwide, the multiplicity of parties involved, the paucity of good record keeping in many countries, and the complexity in distinguishing among corruption, inefficiency and honest mistakes make it difficult to determine the overall costs of corruption in this sector around the globe. But the scale of corruption is vast in both rich and poor countries. In the United States, which spends more on health care – 15.3 per cent of its GDP – than any other industrialized nation, the two largest US public health care programmes, Medicare and Medicaid, estimate that 5–10 per cent of their budget is lost to ‘overpayment’.

0655

**Poverty and Globalization.** By Shanker Singham and Donna Hrinak. The National Interest, Winter 2005/06

<http://www.nationalinterest.org/ME2/>

Poverty, often cast as the fault of multinational corporations or "imperialist" governments, is the most virulent killer on the planet, say the authors.

Trade "liberalization" has not lived up to its promise to relieve poverty, primarily because the liberalization reforms have not been accompanied by the domestic economic reforms required to create a true competitive market, they explain. Additionally, trade negotiations are conducted with a strong bias toward producers rather than consumers. As long as producers' interests continue to trump those of consumers and elites protect their own interests, say the authors, true competition cannot take place and poverty will continue to lead its victims toward the false promises of radical leaders. They propose that trade negotiators should adopt a stronger stance in favor of consumer welfare by finding ways to link the level of competition in markets to the liberalization processes.

**0656**

**Small Business Administration: A Primer on Programs.**

By N. Eric Weiss. CRS report, January 20, 2006

[http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL33243\\_20060120.pdf](http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL33243_20060120.pdf)

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created to aid small businesses because they are viewed as important sources of job creation and economic growth, but are typically disadvantaged in competing against large firms. Many minority owned small businesses are even more disadvantaged, and they can apply to join programs that provide limited competition contracts and technical assistance to help them to grow and gain experience to compete successfully against larger businesses. The SBA has many programs that affect every state and congressional district.



**0657**

**U.S. Assistance to Women in Afghanistan and Iraq: Challenges and Issues for Congress.** By Rhoda Margesson. CRS report, January 5, 2006

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/59925.pdf>

This report reviews U.S. funding for programs directed toward women in Afghanistan and Iraq. Women in these two countries have faced particularly difficult conditions under the Taliban and Baathist regimes. Although there have been notable improvements since the ouster of these regimes in 2001 and 2003, respectively, women still face real challenges in the areas of education, health care, political participation, and, in many cases, basic human rights. The national and international response to the plight of Afghan and Iraqi women may have an important impact not only on the women being directly assisted, but also on their countries as a whole, in terms of more widespread access to education, health care, and political and economic participation.

**0658**

**U.S. International Trade: Data and Forecasts.** By Dick K. Nanto and Thomas Lum. CRS Report, January 31, 2006

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61438.pdf>

Trade deficits are a concern for Congress because they may generate trade friction and pressures for the government to do more to open foreign markets, to shield U.S. producers from foreign competition, or to assist U.S. industries to become more competitive. As the deficit increases, the risk also rises of a precipitous drop in the value of the dollar and disruption in financial markets. The report gives details.

## V. GLOBAL ISSUES

**0659**

**Al Qaeda: Statements and Evolving Ideology.** CRS report, January 26, 2006

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/61499.pdf>

Osama Bin Laden and the Al Qaeda terrorist network have conducted a sophisticated public relations and media campaign over the last ten years. Terrorism analysts believe that these messages have been designed to elicit psychological reactions and communicate complex political messages to a global audience as well as to specific populations in the Islamic world, the United States, Europe, and Asia. Some officials and analysts believe that Al Qaeda's messages contain signals that inform and instruct operatives to prepare for and carry out new attacks. Bin Laden has referred to his public statements as important primary sources for parties seeking to understand Al Qaeda's ideology and political demands. Global counterterrorism operations in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks appear to have limited Bin Laden's ability to provide command and control leadership to Al Qaeda operatives and affiliated groups.

**0660**

**Attacks on the Press in 2005.** By Paul E. Steiger. Committee to Protect Journalists, February 2006

<http://www.cpj.org/attacks05/pages05/aop05index.html>

For 24 years, the Committee to Protect Journalists has remained steadfast in its mission to defend the press around the world. But in 2005, that mission meant paying unusual attention to what was happening at home. The report gives details.

**0661**

**The New World Of Global Health.** By Jon Cohen. Science, vol. 311, no. 5758, January 13, 2006, pp. 162-167  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/eletters/311/5758/162#3137>

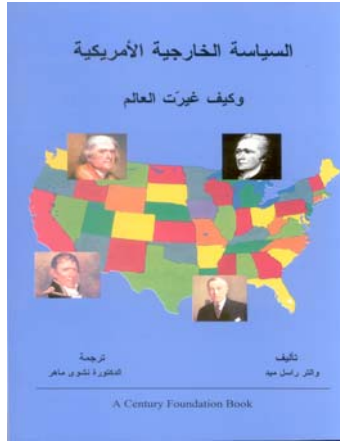
Support and funding for improving public health in developing countries has increased sharply in recent years with the realization that improved health of a population can be a key factor in speeding development and sustainability of a nation as a whole. As increasing sums are being earmarked for public health campaigns and more governments and organizations are taking part, questions arise about the effectiveness and methods of the efforts. "There's no architecture of global health," said one expert quoted in the article. Cohen examines the arguments surrounding the proper means for delivering aid to the developing world and the debate over how to spend assistance to achieve the greatest gains in overall health.

**0662**

**U.S. Study Finds There Is No Safe Level for Ozone**  
USINFO, Department of State, February 17, 2006  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Feb/17-356881.html>

A nationwide study sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that even at very low levels, ozone -- the main ingredient in smog -- increases the risk of premature death. According to a February 16 Yale University press release.

## كتب مترجمة إلى العربية



السياسة الخارجية الأمريكية وكيف غيرت العالم

تأليف : والتر راسل ميد

### Special Providence

American Foreign Policy and How It  
Changed The World

By Walter Russell Mead

هذا الكتاب يتناول كيف ولماذا تعمل السياسة الخارجية الأمريكية، ففيما يزيد قليلاً عن مائتي عام ، تحولت الولايات المتحدة من حفلة مستعمرات على ساحل الأطلنطي إلى أقوى دولة في العالم. وأصبح هذا التطور حقيقة مسلماً بها لدى الأجانب والأمريكيين أنفسهم — على حد سواء. وعبر تقدم الولايات المتحدة إلى مصاف القوى العالمية، كان معظم المراقبين يعتقدون أن الدولة لا تعبأ كثيراً بالسياسة الخارجية، ولا خبرة لها بها. وحتى اليوم في الولايات المتحدة يعتقد معظم صنّاع السياسة الخارجية لم تقم إلا بدور ثانوي في الحياة الأمريكية قبل الحرب العالمية الثانية، وأننا لن نجني الكثير بدراسة السجلات التاريخية لماضيها.

ولكن، إن لم يكن هذا الكتاب إنتصارياً، فهو متقاول. فالسياسة الخارجية الأمريكية لن تنتهي التاريخ، ولكنها قامت بعمل رائع في تمكين الولايات المتحدة من الازدهار خلال مسيرة التاريخ. إنني لا أعرف إلى أي مدى سيستمر التفوق الأمريكي الحالي، أو إذا كان المسرح العالمي مناسباً لقرن أمريكي ثانٍ. ولست متأكداً من أن قرناً آخر من السيطرة الأمريكية على العالم هو ما ينبغي على الشعب الأمريكي أن يأمل فيه. لكن السجل الطويل الناجح لمنظومة السياسة الخارجية المتفردة — حتى في تعقيدها — يمنحني أرضاً صلبة للاعتقاد بأنه مهما يحدث بعد ذلك في العالم، فإن تراث سياستنا الخارجية يقدم أملاً حقيقياً للشعب الأمريكي، في مستقبل يمقرطى مزدهر.



# يوميات كاثرين

تأليف : كارين كوشمان

**Catherine, Called Birdy**

**By Karen Cushman**

تبلغ كاثرين الثالثة عشر من العمر وهي ابنة أحد النبلاء الأنجليز في فترة القرون الوسطى و تعيش في منزل من الطراز القديم وتقضي وقتها في قيام بأعمال تطريز لا نهائية لا معنى لها. و لكن كاثرين تتمنى أن تكون حرة تفعل ما تريد بدلا من أن تنتظر تزويجها لمصلحة أبيها. و يأخذ الكتاب على شكل يوميات كاثرين وألتي قامت بتدوينها بناء على طلب أخيها و هي مليئة بالمرح و الأثارة. و برغم أن كاثرين تعد فتاة من القرون الوسطى ألا أن الكاتبة رسمتها عنيدة و شجاعة و مرحة مما يجعلها أقرب لفتاة عصرية أكثر من كونها شخصيه من التاريخ.

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(To be continued)

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